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Simputer demo before Advani

New Delhi, June 21: Home Minister L K Advani today witnessed the demonstration of an indigenous, easy to handle and portable 'Simputer', or Simple Computer, at his North Block office.

The Simputer prototype, produced jointly by scientists of the Indian Institute of Science and Encore Software Limited, can be used even by totally illiterate persons as it uses symbols and icons along with the written script.

Speaking on the occasion, Advani said it showed that India was not short of talent. "It can not only compete with other countries, but can do better."

Simputer, which is a touch-screen, portable, palmtop-sized device, was being used by a small mercantile bank in the Karad area of Karnataka having its base among farmers. The farmers can also use the device to know the latest prices of their products all over the country and abroad by hooking on to the Internet and downloading information.

Simputer is likely to be released at the end of August and the Simputer Trust, run by these scientists, plans to licence the design to private hardware manufacturers.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission K C Pant, Tourism Minister Ananth Kumar, Ministers of State for Home Vidyasagar Rao and I D Swami, and Home Secretary Kamal Pande were present on the occasion. (PTI)

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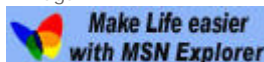
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